

Topical Heading

Telecommunications

Program Title

Star Schools Program

CFDA # (or ED #)

84.203

Administering Office

Office of Innovation and Improvement (OII)

Who May Apply (specifically)

Eligible applicants include either one of the following that is organized on a statewide or multistate basis:

1. A public agency or corporation established for the purpose of developing and operating telecommunications networks to enhance education opportunities provided by education institutions, teacher training centers, and other entities, except that any such agency or corporation shall represent the interests of elementary schools and secondary schools that are eligible to participate in the program under Title I, Part A, of the *Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA)*; or
2. A partnership that will provide telecommunications services and that includes three or more of the following entities (A–G), at least one of which must be an agency as described in (A) or (B):
 - (a) A local education agency (LEA) that serves a significant number of elementary and secondary schools that are eligible for assistance under Title I, Part A, of the *ESEA*, or elementary and secondary schools operated or funded for Indian children by the Department of the Interior eligible under Sec. 1121(d)(1)(A) of the *ESEA*;
 - (b) A state education agency (SEA);
 - (c) An adult and family education program;
 - (d) An institution of higher education (IHE) or a state higher education agency, as that term is defined at 20 *U.S.C.* 1003;
 - (e) A teacher-training center or academy that provides teacher preservice and in-service training, and receives federal financial assistance or has been approved by a state agency;
 - (f) A public or private entity with experience and expertise in the planning and operation of a telecommunications network, including entities involved in telecommunications through satellite, cable, telephone, or computer; or a public broadcasting entity with such experience; and
 - (g) A public or private elementary or secondary school.

Current Competitions

None. FY 2006 funds support continuation awards.

Type of Assistance (by category)

Discretionary/Competitive Grants

Appropriations

Fiscal Year 2004	\$20,362,150
Fiscal Year 2005	\$20,832,000
Fiscal Year 2006	\$14,850,000

Fiscal Year 2006 Awards Information

Note: The Department is not bound by any estimates in this notice.

Number of New Awards Anticipated: 0

Number of Continuation Awards: 9

Average Continuation Award: \$1,630,000

Range of Continuation Awards: \$360,000–\$1,800,000

Legislative Citation

Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, as amended, Title V, Part D, Subpart 7, Secs. 5471–5477; 20 *U.S.C.* 7255–7255f.

Program Regulations

EDGAR; 34 *CFR* 75 75, 77, 79, 80, 81, 84, 85, 86, 97, 98, and 99

Program Description

The purpose of this program is to support distance education projects that:

- Encourage improved instruction in mathematics, science, foreign languages, and other subjects.
- Serve underserved populations, including disadvantaged, nonreading, and limited English proficient (LEP) populations and individuals with disabilities. Star Schools grants are made to eligible telecommunications partnerships, to enable such partnerships to: (a) develop, construct, acquire, maintain, and operate telecommunications audio and visual facilities and equipment; (b) develop and acquire educational and instructional programming; and (c) obtain technical assistance for the use of such facilities and instructional programming.

Types of Projects

Grants are used to obtain telecommunications facilities and equipment; develop and acquire instructional programming for students; provide preservice and in-service staff development for teachers; provide educational programming for parents and community members; obtain technical assistance for teachers, school personnel, and other educators in the use of the facilities and programming; and improve instruction in the areas of reading and math by utilizing emerging mobile technologies and the use of games and simulations.

Education Level (by category)

K–12, Adult

Subject Index

Distance Education, Elementary Secondary Education, Literacy, Professional Development, Technology, Telecommunications

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Links to Related Web Sites

<http://www.ed.gov/programs/starschools/index.html>